

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are presently pending in the application. Claims 1-19 are allowed. Claims 20 and 21 are rejected. Claim 21 has been cancelled. Claim 20 has been amended. The specification stands as filed and the drawings have been amended.

Reconsideration of the objections and rejections set forth in the aforementioned Office Action is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks. The basis for the amendments can be found throughout the Specification, Claims and Drawings as originally filed.

DRAWINGS

The drawings stand objected to for certain informalities. Applicants have attached revised drawings for the Examiner's approval. The Examiner has stated in the first paragraph on page 2 of the Office Action that reference character 32 was not mentioned in the description. Applicants have many instances of "32" in the description and have proceeded as if the Examiner intended to state that reference character 39 was not mentioned in the description.

In the "Replacement Sheet," Figure 2 has been amended to remove reference numeral 39 and include reference numerals 64 and 76. Inner race 35 and outer race 37 have been revised to more clearly illustrate these components as requested by the Examiner. The second instance of reference numeral 32 has been removed. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to enter the replacement sheet including Figure 2 and withdraw the objection to the drawings.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 20 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Sakatani et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,695,483).

Applicants have amended claim 20 to recite that the rotating component includes an internally threaded portion adapted to engage a thread formed on the axle shaft, in combination with the other elements of claim 20. Applicants respectfully submit that Sakatani et al. does not disclose an axle shaft assembly as defined by amended claim 20. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the § 102 rejection.

Applicants have cancelled claim 21. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the § 102 rejections.

CONCLUSION

All of the grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding office action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

If it is believed that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600. Prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated June 29, 2005

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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Figure 2. The attached sheet, which includes Figures 1 and 2, replaces the original sheet including Figures 1 and 2.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet